

## Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-07

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /093 W

----- 042910

R 081332Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XF, IS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO ISRAELI DRAFT RESOLUTION IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REFS: (A) USUN 5936, (B) USUN 5911, (C) USUN 5910

1. ISRAEL'S DECISION TO TABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME A RESOLUTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD COMMENT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. COMMENTATORS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN ISRAEL'S VIEWS REGARDING THE UN AND LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH THE U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, FORMER UN AMBASSADOR TEKOAH SAID IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT ISRAEL HAD FOR YEARS ARGUED THAT THE UN WAS NOT THE PROPER VENUE FOR CONSIDERATION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS BUT THE RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE UN IS AFTER ALL THE PROPER LOCATION. THERE WAS ALSO CRITICISM OF THE APPARENT LACK OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE ISRAELI MISSION TO THE UN. THESE CRITICISMS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY REPORTS THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOW WITHDRAW ITS MOTION.

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2. THE GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THESE CRITICISMS WAS QUICK AND EXTENSIVE. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON WAS INTERVIEWED ON TV AND, NOT SURPRISINGLY, CLAIMED THAT ISRAEL HAD ACTED WISELY AND WITH

FULL AWARENESS OF THE LIKELY REPERCUSSIONS. HE STRESSED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS A CALCULATED MOVE TO BRING FAVORABLE PUBLICITY AND THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BETWEEN AMBASSADORS SCRANTON AND HERZOG (SEE FBIS TA071906Y FOR FULL TEXT OF THE ALLON INTERVIEW). THE PRESS ON DECEMBER 8 REPORTED THAT ALLON SAID TO THE LABOR ALIGNMENT IN THE KNESSET: "I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MOVE. WE FORESAW ALL THE REACTIONS. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATES WELCOMED THE ISRAELI INITIATIVE AND THAT QUITE A FEW OF THEM RUSHED UP TO MR. HERZOG TO SHAKE HIS HAND." THE PRESS ALSO CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH HERZOG MAKING THE SAME POINTS.

3. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUS AND AS AN EFFORT AT POST FACTO RATIONALIZATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE DECISION TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION PROBABLY SHOULD BE SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT THE GOI IS CONCERNED IT MIGHT BE LOSING THE PUBLIC OPINION CONTEST REGARDING READINESS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND FEELS IT MUST BEGIN TO TAKE SOME INITIATIVES.  
DUNNIGAN

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